

Message Text

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R 151705Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 225674

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, MX, PN

SUBJECT: NASA AIRBORNE OBSERVATIONS OF COMET KOHOUTEK

1. NASA AIRBORNE SCIENCE OFFICE AT AMES RESEARCH CENTER, MOFFETT FIELD, CALIFORNIA PLANNING SERIES OF AIRBORNE INFRARED OBSERVATIONS OF COMET KOHOUTEK USING NASA LEAR JET AIRCRAFT N365EJ. OBSERVATIONS TO BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN DECEMBER 10-22, 1973 FROM HOWARD AFB, CZ, THE SOUTHERN-MOST POINT HAVING U.S. FACILITIES FROM WHICH THIS OBJECT CAN BE OBSERVED.

2. AIRCRAFT WOULD FLY ONE FLIGHT EACH DAY TO OBSERVE COMET AND AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS A SECOND FLIGHT FOR SUN CALIBRATION OBSERVATIONS. FLIGHTS WILL NOT EXCEED THREE HOURS NOMINALLY DEPARTING HOWARD ABOUT 1000 GMT, FLYING NORTH TO 12 DEGREES N-78 DEGREES W CLIMBING TO 45,000-48,000 FT. THEREAFTER, AIRCRAFT TO HEAD SW FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR TO 6 DEGREES N-82 DEGREES W, THEN RETURN TO HOWARD AFB ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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1200 GMT, EACH FLIGHT CROSSING OVER SMALL PORTION OF PANAMA

TERRITORY.

3. TRANSIENT REFUELING STOPS TO AND FROM PANAMA CZ REQUIRED EITHER AT MEXICO CITY OR MERIDA. FUEL REQUIRED JP-4.

4. ALL OBSERVATIONS OF AIRCRAFT WILL BE LOOKING SKYWARD, NO GROUND OBSERVATIONS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN, EXCEPT FOR NAVIGATIONAL PURPOSE, IF REQUIRED.

5. AIRCRAFT WILL BE OPERATED BY TWO NASA EMPLOYEES AND SERVICED BY SEVEN NASA CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES FROM NORTHROP SERVICES, INC. THREE SCIENTIFIC TEAMS FROM YERKES OBSERVATORY, CORNELL UNIVERSITY AND NASA-AMES TALLING ABOUT TEN PERSONS WILL PARTICIPATE. CITIZENSHIP OF ALL PARTICIPANTS NOT DETERMINED AT PRESENT TIME. ALTERNATE MEMBERS OF SCIENTIFIC TEAMS MAY BE SUBSTITUTED DURING OBSERVATION PERIOD.

6. NASA FLIGHT CREW PLUS 1-2 CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL WILL FLY TO PANAMA ABOARD THE LEAR JET, ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS WILL TRAVEL BY COMMERCIAL AIRLINES TO TOCUMEN AND FROM THERE TO HOWARD.

7. AFSC BEING REQUESTED SEPARATELY RE ARRANGEMENTS AT HOWARD THROUGH AMES - AIR FORCE LIAISON OFFICE.

8. RESULTS OF OBSERVATIONS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO WORLD SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY THROUGH APPROPRIATE SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND, OF COURSE, UPON REQUEST TO ROP.

9. FOR EMBASSY MEXICO CITY: REQUEST CLEARANCE FOR OVER-FLIGHT AND REFUELING STOP TO AND FROM PANAMA ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 8 AND DECEMBER 24, 1973.

10. FOR EMBASSY PANAMA: WE BELIEVE NO, REPEAT NO, CLEARANCE REQUIRED BUT EMBASSY MAY WISH AT YOUR DISCRETION TO INFORM GOP OF PROJECT AND SCOPE.

11. UPON RECEIPT MEXICO CLEARANCE AND CONFIRMATION FROM PANAMA SPECIFIC DETAILS RE PARTICIPANTS, DAILY ITINERARY AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY AMES THROUGH THE AFSC LIAISON OFFICE TO OPTIMIZE THE OBSERVATIONS OF COMET KOHOUEK. RUSH

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